REMARKS

Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 3 and 6-9 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Nakatsuma, et al. patent (US Patent No. 6,115,132) taken in view of the Hull, et al. patent (US Patent No. 6,665,086). The Examiner has further rejected applicant's claims 2, 4 and 5 also under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable based on the latter two patents taken with the Ferlitsch reference (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0089692), the Qiao reference (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0030843) and the Ogishima reference (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083001), respectively. With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

More particularly, applicant's claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended to better define applicant's invention. Specifically amended claim 1 recites a remote printing server which receives data from a client computer and sends data over a network so as to print the data on a remote printer, comprising: print response means for <u>performing a print control protocol so that the client computer can recognize said remote printing server as the remote printer,</u> receiving print data from the client computer and generating a print job for performing a response process when the data is printed; spooling means for generating a print completion job by spooling print job generated by said print response means; transferring data conversion means for converting the print completion job generated by said spooling means into a format in which the job can be transferred to the remote printer over the network; and remote transfer means for transferring the print completion job converted into a transferrable format by said transferring data conversion means using a predetermined transfer protocol.

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Claims 8 and 9 have been similarly amended.

As can be appreciated from the above, applicant's amended claims now recite a remote printing server and method which <u>perform a print control protocol so that the client computer can recognize the remote printing server as the remote printer</u>. The remote printing server and method further receive the print data from the client computer, spool the print completion job, convert the print completion job into the transferrable format, and transfer the print completion job to the remote printer. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

In particular, the Nakatsuma, et al. patent discloses a system in which print data is converted in each client and spooled, and the client requests a print operation. Additionally, in the Nakatsuma, et al. patent, a server manages only job information and issues a printable indication to the client when it is a time to print the print data. The client then passes the print data to the network printer when the client receives the printable indication. Abstract; Column 13, line 63 through column 14, line 5.

The Hull, et al. patent, on the other hand, discloses a system in which a print server 104 runs print spooling software for writing print data to a printer 112. A client system 102 sends a document to the print server 104 in predetermined format. The printer sever 104 performs format conversion as necessary.

However, neither the Nakatsuma, et al. patent nor the Hull, et al. patent teach or suggest a remote printing server and method which <u>perform a print control protocol so that the client computer can recognize the remote printing server as the remote printer</u>. Applicant's independent claims 1, 8 and 9, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such feature thus patentably distinguish over the Nakatsuma, et al. and Hull, et al. patents.
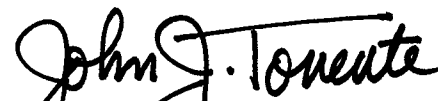
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The Ferlitsch reference discloses a system in which a status of printing device is detected and a printing error is recovered. The Qiao reference discloses that a printing command mail is sent by using SMTP and the Ogishima reference discloses that enciphered data is deciphered in an apparatus having a printing function. None of these references thus add anything to the Nakatsuma, et al. and Hull, et al. patents which would result in applicant's claimed invention.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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